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MIKE BRIGGS

ASSEMBLY MEMBER, TWENTY-NINTH DISTRICT



ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN LEADER

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October 7, 2002

Federal Communications Commission
C/o Marlene H. Dortch, Commission Secretary
445 12th Street SW, CY-B402,
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Proceeding 02-306

Dear Commissioners:

California businesses and consumers deserve the best – unfortunately, in recent years, they are being shortchanged. The business environment in California has soured and it is time for government to stop interfering with the ability of businesses to provide, produce, innovate, employ and fuel our economy. For this reason, I urge the FCC to allow SBC Pacific Bell to become a competitor in California's long distance market.

As a member of the California Assembly, I have taken a strong interest in regulations across the state. I want to foster an environment that promotes and encourages competition, economic development, and growth. These are especially important to the rural, growing communities that I represent. Allowing greater competition in telecom markets will further my goals.

To date, the FCC has approved applications from nearly two-dozen states. As a result of the increased competition, the cost of telecommunications services in these other states have dropped. My constituents, both residential and business, could benefit greatly from a full, open telecommunications market. More competition in long distance will provide cost savings, more choices, and better services.

For the past four years, the California Public Utilities Commission has been reviewing SBC's long distance application and finally approved it last month. I respectfully ask that the FCC render a favorable vote allowing SBC Pacific Bell to move forward with offering long distance phone services in California. It's the right thing for the economy, telecom competition and consumers. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Briggs
Assemblyman, 29th District

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